

To whom it may concern. Please note that I and many others are absolutely disgusted by the clearly partisan behaviors of Sinclair Broadcasting's management. The decision to force stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. What happened to the notion that TV stations were to respect their public and take the public's considerations into mind when making programming decisions? I understand the right of free speech and support it, even though I find this tactic to be abhorrent. Will the station run an equally unflattering documentary such as Fahrenheit 9/11 to balance out its programming? Or will it just use the public airways to force a singular view on the people who watch?

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. I want Sinclair Broadcasting censured for its blatant attempt to manipulate the elections.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. They show why the FCC must take a more active role in protecting the rights of ALL Americans, even those who find the Bush administration abominable. Thank you.